

CROSSROADS 2002

MANSFIELD
UNIVERSITY

MAY 1ST

FLATLANDERS
GO HOME

Matt Biegum

FLATLANDERS vs. THE LOCALS

"THEY DON'T BELONG. THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND US."

PLUS

An Inside Look at
Minorities and
Campus Activities

Man Behind the Bench
A Profile of Harry Hillson

To Our Readers:

Mansfield University's Communication Department has published this magazine each spring since 1990. The Title, *Crossroads*, was selected to signify the junction of Route 6 and Route 15 - the crossroads that represent Mansfield on the map. When MU was founded as Mansfield Classical Seminary in 1857, it served primarily as an educational opportunity for local residents. After 145 years, it has grown to include students and faculty from around the corner and around the world.

This year, the *Crossroads* staff would like to focus on the people who travel those paths and find themselves at the Mansfield crossroads. Some are native residents; some are students; some came from other places to make Mansfield their home; still others are frequent or occasional visitors to the area. Whoever they are, they are likely to cross paths in the picturesque hills of Tioga County.

In that spirit, this year's issue of *Crossroads* is dedicated to the people here. We have tried to include features on local people, city people, "Greek" people, civic-minded people, athletic and musical people. As diverse as they are, they all share the common quality of being a part of the Mansfield Community.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy reading this edition of *Crossroads*, and we wish to thank our readers, contributors, and sponsors.

Best Wishes,

The Crossroads Staff



From left to right: Melissa Yerkov, Hillary Grumbine, Dylan Brucie, Kathleen Andrews, Greg Pellegrino, Holly Loeffler, Stephanie Jerome, Kamal Mason, Matt Biegun, Kristi Swartz, Mike Kane, and Instructor Bill Alnor.

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Vs
Locals**

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Why stay at Mansfield?

By KRISTI SWARTZ

Imagine yourself getting ready for college; how do you choose a school that is for you?

How do you know if you will like it? Well most students ask themselves the same question.

Many believe once they come to Mansfield, this isn't the school for them. Some aren't thinking too soundly though, because many do stay here and get a great education. Most upperclassmen at Mansfield have had many great memories here and have great things to say about the university.

There are many reasons

that students choose to go to Mansfield. There are good programs and small classes, so each student can develop a good relationship with their professors.

"I like Mansfield because the classes are small and I know the professors and they know me and that just makes learning more fun," said senior Karen Huckle. Tina Perry, a senior, said, "Getting to know the professors well, I believe will help me when it comes time to find a job."

Not only do the professors relate well with the students, they also know how to teach.

"I wanted to come to Mansfield because I heard that

the communication department was excellent," said senior Alex Goodman.

Freshman Chrissy Woodland said, "One of the main things that brought me to Mansfield was the music department. I went to camp here in the summer and knew that this place was for me and that the music programs were so great."

Mansfield is one of the smallest schools in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and is located in a small town. Some people like that and some people don't.

"I grew up in a small town, so I think I would adapt better

if I was in that same sort of environment," said junior Michelle Alters.

Senior Erin Shanafelt said, "I didn't like being in such a small town, but I knew it would keep me out of trouble so I would study more."

When students choose Mansfield, there are always those expectations of what it is actually going to be like. "Will I like this school? Will I have fun? Will I get a good education?" Many students don't have high expectations coming in or they don't know what to expect. Most students from small schools find it easier to adapt to this environment.

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DELIVERY IN MANSFIELD AREA**

Students from big schools, probably expect less because they are used to a bigger area with more to do.

"I am glad that I came to Mansfield," said senior Kate Magsamen. "I transferred here not thinking I was going to like it at all, but I love the Community Department and the people a lot." Senior Dan Webber said, "I didn't know if I was going to like it here. I came here because it was cheap."

Sophomore Erin Eshleman said, "I knew I was going to have fun. My broth-

school doing my own thing and I have met so many people and enjoy the organizations that are here."

Junior Jennifer Dill said "I like the small town atmosphere." She continued, "I am from a small town and I am used to it, and can find little things to do to keep me busy."

Alters said, "I figure I will stay because I am almost done."

"I didn't think that I was going to stay," said Webber. "But I am glad that I did decide to stay, I really enjoy the criminal justice program."

"I like this school, and I

"This is such a small school I just don't think that people coming from the cities like being in such a scenic environment," said Dill. "I think that people also think that there isn't anything to do. I play on the softball team, work out regularly and like to go rollerblading with my boyfriend."

Shanafelt said, "I think that a lot of the freshman have trouble adjusting to college life and go out and party too much. Then they drop out because they think that college isn't for them."

older. I was close enough to go home, but far enough to have the college life and I will never forget anything about MU."

"So far I am enjoying myself here," said Eshleman. "I always have something to do, I made great friends and I love the organizations I am in. I am looking forward to what my future years will bring."

It seems hard to understand why anyone would want to leave Mansfield. There are small classes and great faculty that the stu-

"So far I am enjoying myself here. I always have something to do, I made great friends and I love the organizations I am in. I am looking forward to what my future years will bring."

-Sophomore Erin Eshleman

er went here so I came to visit and loved it. I couldn't see myself fitting in anywhere else."

Mansfield is often chosen for many people, but not all of them stay to finish their senior year here. Mansfield is often chosen for many people, but not all of them stay to finish their senior year here. Many people transfer after their freshman year and even their first semester. But there are many reasons why students stay and graduate from MU.

"I stayed because of my girlfriend," said Webber.

"I play basketball," said Goodman. "I love my friends, teammates, my coach and my major. I couldn't even think about leaving."

"I stayed because I love it here," said Perry. He added, "I live close by, but I am at

did when I came to visit," said Dill. "I will graduate from Mansfield and so will all my friends."

Unlike these students, many don't make it to their sophomore year here at MU. They transfer to another school or completely drop out. Everyone at Mansfield knows that there is a very low retention rate and many people are wondering why.

This is a small school with small classes and great professors so why don't students stay?

"I think people leave because there really isn't anything to do here," said sophomore Greg Pellegrino. "I got involved with activities that are fun and keep me busy. I write for the *Flashlight*, the school newspaper and I announce the Mounties baseball games."

Woodland said, "The people that I know that didn't come back this semester had problems being away from their family and home."

Many of the reasons why students choose to stay at Mansfield are largely related to the organizations that they join. From athletic teams to Greek organizations to SGA, there are plenty of clubs to join to have fun and enjoy their time here at MU.

"I enjoyed all five years at Mansfield," said Perry. "I joined ZTA, and I have been an athletic trainer for a long time, and I had so much fun doing all that."

"I loved my college experience," said senior Billie Kasten. "I got involved in a lot of activities when I was young and that developed into more things once I got

students enjoy. With advantages like that, students can expect to get a good education. Even in this small area, these veteran students find a way to have fun. Getting involved in different organizations and just being part of the community will have you committed to Mansfield. But not every person is cut out for MU. There are many different reasons why students stay and why they leave, but it seems that the students who stay get a great education and memories to last them a lifetime.

A small university offers the chance to be in more activities and that could be a great advantage when they enter the job market. So the motto is right: "Mansfield, small university, BIG opportunities."

The Mysterious Mayor of Mansfield?

Who is the mayor of Mansfield?

By HILLARY GRUMBINE
 Who is the mayor of Mansfield? Do we have one? Could anyone tell me?

I went on a thorough search of the university and the borough of Mansfield to answer these questions. As a student here at Mansfield University, it would be beneficial to know our governing leaders.

As a student who also does not know who the mayor of Mansfield is, I decided it might be a good idea to find out and to see how many others also did not know.

After talking to a man at the Mansfield Police and having no luck finding out who our dear mayor is, I decided to ask students, faculty, anyone I encountered. I was pretty desperate. How could no one know?

After encountering Amanda Delbo, a freshman at Mansfield, I popped the question. She said no, she had no idea who the mayor is. I was yet again disappointed. I was not to be deterred though, my quest was not yet finished. I decided to ask my beloved boss on campus, Dixie Sheridan. Alas, I was only to be disappointed again.

Dixie had known the previous mayor personally, but was not aware of who had carried on the mayoral torch.

Just a little bit of facts for

those of you who may not know, Mansfield University has about 2,890 undergraduate students. The town itself has about 2 traffic lights. So one would think it would not be so hard to find this mysterious mayor of Mansfield. One would be wrong. My researching of the internet resulted in nothing. Even the powers that be in cyber space could not help a student in search of knowledge. So, once again I was left with nothing and a quest yet unfinished.

After asking a random girl in a hallway and getting a blank stare, I realized that maybe my search was harder than I thought it would be.

How could one man be so hard to identify? I needed a name, a face, a phone number, anything! My desperation was getting worse. Who in all of Mansfield could answer my very important question? I encountered Christy Taylor, a transfer student at MU in yet another hallway and decided to risk it again.

Well no blank stares that time, Christy's not from around here and had no idea but at least she dignified me with a response.

As I was riding the Mountie Wal Mart, I thought it might be a good idea to ask some fellow students and perhaps the driver, who most

know as "Kevin." So I started talking with my friend next to me about the topic, trying to subtly let people around me hear. I was hoping someone would volunteer the information, that way I wouldn't have to prod them. Well, subtlety did not work! Who knew? I just blurted out the question to Kevin and to my surprise he said he knew!

Then he told me he wasn't sure about the name, but he knew that he had the answer. After telling him of my quest, Kevin asked an unidentified man in the Bi-Lo parking lot for assistance.

Together they would help me answer my question! I was ecstatic!

After shopping for an hour or so, I got back on the Mountie and was greeted with the most wonderful sight, a yellow Post-It note. Written on it was the name of our mayor!

My quest was complete! Now all I had to do was call him and find out what he was like. It had only taken almost three entire weeks to find the man and my deadline was slowly running out. Would I make it? I surely hoped so...

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I don't wake up at the crack of dawn for too many people, but seeing as how I had a deadline and the fact that no one seemed to know how to contact the mysterious mayor, I knew it may take awhile. After much dispute as to how to spell his name, it was decided that our mayor's name is *Tom Wierbowski*.

I decided to try calling the Mansfield Police again to see if maybe I could find someone who knew how to contact him. After talking to a very nice man on the phone for five minutes, I found out I could leave the mayor a message right there at the police station! So I left a message for the mayor and got a number where I could reach him at Warren L. Miller Elementary School, where he works part time, just in case he hadn't got back to me

before I was to leave for class. I called the elementary school and was informed that the mayor was monitoring the halls, but if I'd leave my name and number once again, he would contact me.

So then I was left to wait and hope and worry. The phone rang, I jumped and answered it. It was him! Finally, the man himself! Wierbowski, a friendly man who cracked jokes and made me feel very at ease, is from West Pittston, Pa. He's a 1968 graduate of Mansfield University. He studied music education and got his Masters degree from MU in 1972. After a child had brought guns and bombs to school in his backpack in Elmira, students and parents felt it would be a good idea to have an authority figure monitoring their hallways. Wierbowski, a retired music

teacher, was more than happy to oblige. "When I retired, that's what I missed the most, the interaction with children. Now I have that, working at the elementary school."

As an uninformed student, I was curious as to what a mayor's duties are. Wierbowski, 56, said that basically he is a liaison between council and the public. "The job of mayor is mostly PR," he informed me.

The mayor is also in charge of public safety and overseeing the police. I'm sure our jovial mayor will be teasing someone about not knowing his name.

Besides the duties of a mayor and a hall monitor, Wierbowski also volunteers at the various churches in Mansfield. He is also an organist and choir director at First Presbyterian Church in Williamsport, Pa.

He has a love for music and a special love for the harp, which he has played for 34 years now. Wierbowski is currently single and has no children so he has lots of time for his passion of music and volunteering.

Friendliness exudes from Wierbowski and it can be heard in his voice. He wanted to become mayor because he wants to give back to a community that has shown so much support and love for him over the years. He has the time, the energy and the drive to do wonderful things for all the citizens of this town, even our younger generation. "I know most people of this town and if I don't, I want to know." For a man that so few students seem to know, he is definitely the person to get to know.

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Bring on the music

By MELISSA YERKOV

Imagine yourself in a packed gymnasium. Thousands of screaming people surround you in complete darkness.

You can feel the excitement building up as the dull roar of the crowd slowly hushes. A man takes the stage and a giant scream erupts from the crowd as flashing lights illuminate his face.

You may ask yourself where is all this excitement happening? Our own Decker gym at Mansfield University.

Mansfield University has been hosting concerts for the past 20 years. Bands ranging in all different styles such as Destiny's Child and Fuel have visited Mansfield and entertained its students with their music.

Deciding which bands visit Mansfield is a relatively intricate process. It depends primarily on who is available at the given time. Since it is a University sponsored concert, the students' opinion is especially valuable in the decision making process. Surveys are prepared by the school and filled out by the students. Once the surveys are analyzed

and accounted for, it is up to the University to make the preferred band an offer in the given amount of time.

Ideally, the University would like to have these events planned out a year in advance. In reality, they are completely planned and carried out in three to four weeks before the show. This small time frame places an extreme amount of pressure on the University because of all the planning and scheduling that is involved with shows. However, the process is a lot easier for the people attending the concert. Three to four weeks is plenty of time to purchase a ticket and make plans to see the concert.

MU tries to make ticket prices for these events as low as possible. Usually prices for students are approximately \$10. For non-students however, the ticket prices are slightly more expensive. The reason for these prices is simply because the shows are not a profit making deal. They are here to add to the student's enjoyment of Mansfield University. The Committee of Finance, the



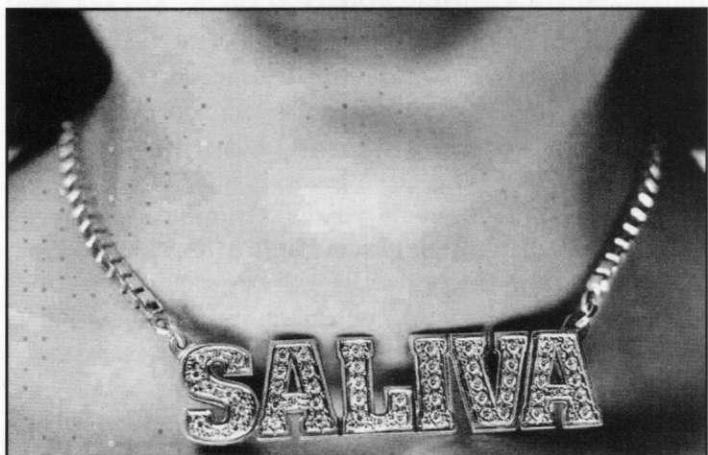
Fuel came to Mansfield during the fall 2001 semester.

Mansfield University Activities Council, and the Student Activities Office mostly fund the events.

The band 112 was supposed to visit Mansfield this spring. Unfortunately, due to the lack of funds available, it was not possible. In place of 112, the University is planning a Spring Fling including three to five bands, which at press time had not been definitely decided upon yet. Mansfield leaves the decision up to the students because the University tries to always have their desires come first.

Of course, it is ideal to

schedule the hottest band out at the time of the show, but this is not always realistic. It is easier to schedule new and upcoming bands to visit Mansfield because those bands' schedules are less elaborate and chaotic. Also, at that point of a band's career, they enjoy any type of exposure and genuinely have a good time playing here. Once a band is touring around the country, or even world, a town like Mansfield isn't likely to be on the tour list. That's why the University tries to schedule newer bands -- bands that just enjoy playing for anyone.

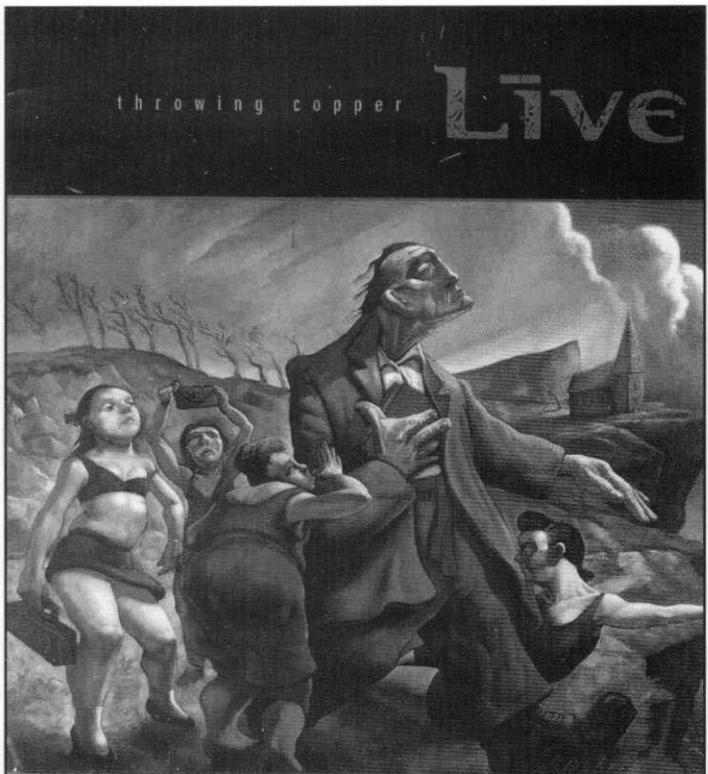


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Many of the more recent acts that have visited Mansfield University have been of the alternative genre. Bands such as 3 Doors Down, Saliva, Live and Sum 41 have performed at Mansfield University the past few years, leaving the memories of bands such as Destiny's Child and Wyclef almost forgotten. A large majority of the bands that visit MU are geared toward one type of music. The University is trying to change this trend

that is forming by making the concerts more diverse. This past fall a diversity show was in the makings, however nothing was presented in time, leaving the University with the decision to schedule Fuel instead. The University is hopeful about trying the idea again and putting it together this fall. Most of the opinions so far are positive, but nothing is definite yet.

To help the University make decisions on which band to schedule to per-

form, it has an agent in New York. This helps gather information on which bands are more likely for success or failure. Research and statistics have shown that it is easier to plan an alternative show than any other because the probability of success is much higher. The reasoning behind this is the high level of Caucasian students who attend Mansfield University. The University is aware of this and is trying to add more diverse types of music to please more than just one group of students. The main goal is to make all the concerts enjoyable to all the students.

The University still plans to prepare and hand out student surveys and try to fulfill their wishes on which band to schedule. Since these shows are primarily for the student's enjoyment, it is only obvious to ask their opinion. The stu-

dents of MU are heavily involved with not only the decision making process, but also the performances themselves. Between 50 and 80 students are hired for every individual show to help with the loading and unloading of equipment, security, and many other responsibilities that go along with the concerts. Students can sign up for as many shows they wish to help out with. A concert is a big production and any help is appreciated.

"Concert programming requires a lot of people and support," Clarence J. Crisp of Student Activities said. "As long as the students continue to support this stuff, we can do it."

Mansfield University plans to continue hosting these concerts far into the future. They bring a certain amount of fun and bonding to the University that is greatly appreciated by the students.

RUDOLPH J. VAN DER HIEL, ESQ.

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Emerging from the Shadows

By HOLLY LOEFFLER

Pick a day, any day will do, and take a stroll through the Mansfield University campus.

Would it be uncommon to see a student sporting a t-shirt with the words Blue Shadow inked across the front? You would be incorrect if you answered yes to that question; Blue Shadow is one of the most popular bands on Mansfield's campus.

Blue Shadow formed after another Mansfield based band, Prime Hook, broke up. Rob Warren, guitarist and lead vocalist, and Les Fowler, guitarist and pianist, contacted Mike Whittemore, bassist, about playing together. The trio became a quartet in August of 2001, when they picked up TJ Hower, a drummer that had previously played for a band named Synesthesia. Blue Shadow felt that as a band they "clicked" but they wanted something to make them stand out, they needed a little "sparkle."

In October of that year they found their sparkle, Russ Eskin, violinist, was adopted into the band and Blue Shadow was complete.

When Blue Shadow takes



the stage, they take it with an air of importance and a sense of respect towards the music they'll be playing. The electric feeling in the air that signifies something is about to happen grabs the crowd's attention. This is especially true at shows held at the university, where students come out in droves to see the band. Many students enjoy the band because they know the members, enjoy live bands, are a fan of the music and showmanship - or perhaps a combination of these and many other reasons.

For whatever the reason, Blue Shadow definitely draws the student body's attention and support. Lead vocalist Rob Warren, doesn't limit himself to just belting out lyrics; he also plays guitar, piano, and harmonica. On stage, he is in constant

motion, whether playing one of his instruments, dancing behind the microphone, or "slow dancing" guitar to guitar with Les or Mike during a cover of Wonderful Tonight by Eric Clapton.

Rob enjoys performing and this is obvious in his happy, bouncy movements and the big smile that lights up his whole face. Rob, who hails from Hornell, N.Y., is a Mass Communications major with an emphasis in Public Relations and Speech.

Guitarist Les Fowler also plays additional instruments - the piano and mandolin. After climbing on stage, Les is often very laid back and full of concentration. He glances up from his instrument every once in a while to smile as his fingers move over the frets with an easy and graceful motion.

However, if you were to ask him, he would tell you that he believes the "main goal is to have fun with the music we play and have an entertaining show for our audience."

A native of Towanda, Pa, Les graduated from Mansfield in the fall of 2001 as a Music Business major.

Les stresses fun as a key part for the formation of the band as well as the perform-

ance of the music.

Bassist Mike Whittemore plays the base line with ease. Like Les, he is also very laid-back on stage. He concentrates on his bass guitar and feeling the rhythm of the music. Mike appears very nonchalant, but is actually very excited for performances. Mike is majoring in Mass Communications with an emphasis in Broadcasting. If you ask him how he feels about Blue Shadow, you'll get an enthusiastic, "Excellent!" from the sophomore from Endicott, N.Y. "I wouldn't trade Blue Shadow for anything," said drummer TJ Hower, "This is the greatest thing to happen to me musically and personally since I got my first pair of sticks." TJ seems to pound the music out of his drum set almost effortlessly, all the while sending sly looks out to his fellow band mates.

He is powerfully devoted to the band and working hard to obtain their goals. When not on the Mansfield campus, TJ resides in Berwick, Pa and is currently a freshman Business Administration major.

Violinist Russ Eskin not only plays a mean fiddle, but also helps Rob out with the vocals.



On stage, he has a shy, easy smile and puts his whole body into playing the violin. It's almost as if he and the instrument are one, as he raises his eyebrows urging his violin to reach for those high notes. Russ said of Blue Shadow, "I feel that we have the talent and discipline to create an album worthy of praise." Russ names Scranton, Pa as his hometown and is a sophomore in Music Business.

The band recalls a few of Blue Shadow's best moments. "The best moment," said Rob, "was when I had been singing Green Eyes with my eyes shut. I opened my eyes and in one direction someone was singing the words, I looked straight ahead and someone else was too. As I realized what was

happening, I knew that they weren't just singing the chorus, but the actual verse and bridge." Other band members enjoy candidly talking about playing at a party at the Phi Kap fraternity house. It just so happened that in the middle of their show, about 10:30p.m. when Blue Shadow had about 100 people jumping and dancing to their music, all the town cops showed up.

They broke up the party and fined the house. "But," said Les, "it was a lot of fun." Blue Shadow currently classifies themselves as a cover band, though they have written a number of originals. They play a large range of musical styles. "We try to be versatile," said Rob. "We'll

play disco alternative, classic rock, and even country. This way we will hopefully please every single person there with at least one of the songs that we play."

Blue Shadow has over 100 cover songs under their belt and approximately 15 originals. Some of their favorite cover songs to play are Ants Marching by Dave Matthews Band, Smooth Criminal by Michael Jackson, Shimmer by Fuel, and The Devil Went Down to Georgia by The Charlie Daniels Band. All of the band members agree that their original Green Eyes is one of their favorites. "I can't wait to start playing all of our own material once our album is out," said Mike.

Mansfield's campus isn't the

only venue that Blue Shadow has played. They have also played a number of shows in Northern Pennsylvania and Southern New York, such as Downtown Quarterback in Endicott, N.Y. the Sportsman's Inn in Towanda, Pa; Fred's Lobster Garden in Tioga, Pa; and O'Brien's Inn in Waverly, N.Y. They also plan on releasing an album in the near future.

Sure Blue Shadow is a new band, but they have taken off with a running start.

They attribute the success they have had to their professionalism, their desire to please the audience, their fans, and the talents of the individual band members.

"To put it bluntly," said TJ, "we're just a bunch of guys that love to play great music."

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Flatlanders vs Locals

By STEPHANIE JEROME

A county that is as calm as a slow moving stream, Tioga provides residents with a slow paced, tranquil haven with minimal crime and maximum peace.

Surrounded by mountains, hills, trees and open land, Tioga is as opposite from the city as sweet is to sour. This placidity serves as a magnet for those who seek an unruffled type of life- that is, unruffled until outsiders known as "Flatlanders" barge in.

Generally non-chalant, nothing seems

to find a church with a friendly crowd. "You have to get to know them," said Barb. "I felt like I wasn't accepted, no one wanted to talk to me at first."

That is the general consensus of the "Flatlanders" that move to Tioga. Most agree that locals are very apprehensive. "There is a mindset against Flatlanders; people are very mistrustful," said Professor William Alnor, a newcomer that teaches at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. Other faculty members who are familiar with the local attitude against outsiders

like it when those Flatlanders come intruding in, hunting on our grounds...it's blatant disrespect," said one life-long local.

Taking a walk around Mansfield, it's not uncommon to see confederate flags posted on walls through open windows. "That symbol is more of a declaration that 'you can't tell me what to do' than anything else explained one local." Locals' being adamant about independence is uncompromising. They are content with a slow pace and view time differently than city buffs. Locals take their time with

"They don't belong. They don't understand us. They don't really want to be a part of us... we look at them as being outcasts. But, if they come out here to stay, to live, I know they have finally seen the light."

-Dr. Vernon Lapps, a Communications professor at Mansfield University

to generate more emotions and urge Tioga folk out of character more than the touchy subject of "Flatlanders." Bestowed with the title "Flatlander," due to lack of mountains and hills in the city, Flatlanders are usually people from the southeast corner of the Pennsylvania, including Philadelphia, Allentown, Lancaster, etc. The "Flatlander" stigma can also be extended to those who are from cities anywhere. One local of Tioga County informed me that "there are two types of people: locals who are interested in the immediate environment, and cosmopolitans who are interested in things outside the immediate environment-- the world!"

In Tioga, "city" is immediately associated with negativity such as high crime and drugs. When locals see Flatlanders, the situation is tense and can become very uncomfortable. When Barb Wallace moved to Tioga County from Philadelphia 18 years ago, she wasn't expecting to be entering an unfriendly environment. Always outgoing and sociable, Wallace quickly learned locals weren't as receiving as she anticipated. After all, it took 17 years for Barb and her husband to

also warned Alnor. The validity of this admonition was quickly confirmed when Alnor visited a local barbershop in downtown Mansfield. "I was getting my hair cut when this guy walked in and commented 'there are too many damned Flatlanders moving in,'" Alnor said, smiling.

Locals agree that the strong anti-Flatlander spirit is not unwarranted. According to the natives, Flatlanders act above friendliness, are self-centered, carry an "I'm better than you air," and have lots of attitude. Additionally, a great deal of tension stems from Flatlanders buying property, which is sold at lower rates than the city, and jacking up the prices for locals. Locals, with their strong sense of independence and understanding, love and respect for nature, are very protective over their hunting grounds as well. "We don't

everything, and if it doesn't get done today, NO BIG DEAL!

Dr. Vernon Lapps, a Communications professor at Mansfield University, has lived close to Roseville in Tioga County for 32 years. Originally from Detroit, Lapps has learned to love and appreciate the hills. During our interview, Lapps opened his window curtain and pointed to the landscape consisting of everlasting, mountainous hills and trees, and said, "I used to detest all these hills. Now I need them. You're supposed to have hills in the background. This is the light...the truth."

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When asked about his views of Flatlanders, Lapps replied, "They don't belong. They don't understand us. They don't really want to be a part of us... we look at them as being outcasts. But, if they come out here to stay, to live, I know they have finally seen the light."

A typical city person would find it impossible to live in Tioga County, but those who do come and stay a while become aware of all the qualities that exist here. Linda Salevsky, who raised her twin daughters here, mentioned that there is more of an opportunity for children to excel. "My daughter received the Youth Leader of Tomorrow award and won the pageant to become Miss Mansfield." She also voiced her opinion of the schools. "The schools are better here because there is more individual attention...the teachers are more willing to assist students."

Salevsky is content with her new life in Tioga County. "You couldn't get me to

move back down there [Philadelphia]," she said. Her enthusiasm over Tioga County does not compromise her Philly style though. She said she remains true to her outgoing attitude and character. I noticed a cell phone sticking out of her shirt pocket.

Sharing Salevsky's excitement was Theresa Dibiase co-owner (with her husband) of Frankie Flatlander's Cafe in downtown Mansfield. Originally from Philadelphia, Dibiase has been living in Lawrence Township for four years. "I love it here," she said. "It's the most beautiful place I've ever seen." Admitting that it does take a while to adjust, Dibiase is happy with her life in Tioga County. "I don't worry about getting robbed or shot. People are honest. I feel like I can be myself and be liked anyway... there is less of a superficial air," she said.

With all the controversy that surrounds Flatlanders, it seemed ironic that the Dibiases would name their cafe

"Frankie Flatlander's." Theresa offered the reasoning. "Flatlander is always seen in a negative light," she said. "We wanted it to be seen in a more positive light." Flatlanders may not really be seen in a positive light, but the Dibiases have certainly made a lot of friends. As lunchtime approached, the cafe began to fill up, and every time the door opened Theresa stopped and said hello to everyone...by name! "Once you get over that initial hump, they are just as interested in you as you are in them."

The often felt, but rarely verbalized tension between Flatlanders and locals will probably survive in the years to come. The gap is likely to become smaller as technology advances, but the social clash will most likely remain. Theresa Dibiase offered advice, beneficial to both locals when it comes to the city and Flatlanders when it comes to Tioga-- "You can't just pass through," she said. "You have to touch people...get to know them."

Are you a flatlander?

1. Do you lock your car door when you get out?
2. Does a bad hair day stop you from carrying on a normal day's activities?
3. Have you ever seen a cow before? (No, on television does not count!)
4. Left alone in the woods for a week, would you survive?
5. Do you get excited when hunting season arrives...do you even know when hunting season arrives?
6. Does your wardrobe consist solely of army fatigues and work boots?
7. Do you get angry when someone new moves next door?
8. Do you buy shoes every month?
9. Do you talk fast?
10. Do you consider time a highly valuable commodity?
11. Do you think you are better than the average person?
12. Does the word "farm" seem foreign?

If you answered yes to numbers 1,2, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12, chances are you're a Flatlander!

What is here for me to do?

By KAMAL MASON

"What is here for me to do?" I hear that question a lot from students who visit the Mansfield University campus.

However, these students have qualities about them that are unique. They are kids that are of ethnic backgrounds other than Caucasian. They are Black, Hispanic, or even perhaps from other countries and continents, such as Asia or Africa. They are often referred to as minorities, a phrase that is used to describe individuals who make up the lowest percentage of the population.

Since the majority of this campus is white, it may seem that a lot of needs, events, and activities are targeted towards them. This can give minority students the idea that this campus isn't concerned with their happiness.

"Overall the campus isn't too concerned about pleasing the minorities, but I don't see it as a negative thing, because things will probably be more successful if targeted towards the majorities anyway," said Jamel Smith, a junior from Philadelphia.

Smith went on to say that where he is from he wasn't considered a minority, because the ratio between blacks and whites weighed heavily on the blacks. Even though there were many more blacks than any other races, they never used the word minority to describe anybody.

"I've never heard the term minority until I started to go here. We never linked all the other races together in a

group like that," Smith said.

That's the case with a lot of students here at Mansfield. I often hear people say that they never heard the term minority until they started here.

"I first realized what a minority was during my first year here," said James Silver, another junior from Philadelphia.

"A lot of people were asking for a concert and so the activities council got the alternative group "Smashmouth" up here. It was strange because all my friends were the ones asking for the concert and they never heard of Smashmouth before. And ever since then, we have been still asking for a concert that will entertain us [the minority students] and ever since, they have been booking more alternative bands."

This semester, the minority students came close to getting their wish. Popular R&B group, 112, was scheduled to perform. However, scheduling and funding problems kept the concert from happening. A lot of the black students were disappointed but not surprised at the change of plans.

"Every time we try to have a black concert something goes wrong," Desiree Bond, president of the Black Student Union (BSU) commented. "Every semester it seems like we are promised to have a concert and it never happens."

Minority students are not only feeling outnumbered, many are also starting to feel

ignored, questioning if they're welcome at the events and activities on campus because the activities don't seem to have a minority appeal.

From the outside looking in, someone might think that it is hard to plan events targeted towards minorities. However, what people don't know is that the activities council works extremely hard at trying to please everybody on campus.

"Easy to plan events for minorities, but it is hard to get attendance," Clarence Crisp, director of student activities said.

In that respect it could be seen as a student issue. Meaning that maybe if the turnout for events were better, there would be more planning. Earlier this semester there was an act on campus that featured John Amos, actor, doing a one man show titled "Haley's Comet." It was reported by members of the activities council that the minority turnout was lower than expected.

It was surprising because Amos is African-American and he is famous for his roles as Kunta Kinte in the mini-series "Roots," and his role as James Evans, the father on popular African-American television show "Good Times."

Participation and attendance doesn't just have to be at the events. They can happen at the planning for events, the voting for events, and joining the activities councils.

Minority students should

make an effort to be active in the Mansfield Activities Council (MAC).

However, students still think that there should be more of an effort to satisfy the minority interests. But when event planning takes place there isn't a choice that is made with the intention of pleasing the white students first, then the black and Hispanic students. "We don't plan events and think about race," Crisp said. "We look at the talent of performer and entertainment of the event. If the talent is good, we schedule it."

One possible solution is for more groups to look into co-sponsoring to get more diverse programs and better minority turnouts. For example, if the Black Student Union and the Mansfield Activities Council did more events together it would probably be better for both organizations:

First, M.A.C. would have ideas of what minority students would want to see and do. Secondly, B.S.U. would have a chance to be heard.

Another suggestion is for minority students to join some of the activities councils and take part in the planning of events, or some of the activities council could attend some of the minority group meetings and get ideas as to what they would like to see. What ever the case may be, the bottom line is people on this campus have to work together.

There isn't going to be any kind of understanding without effort from all sides.

The man behind the bench

An inside look at head coach Harry Hillson

By GREG PELLEGRINO

When people hear the name Mike Krzyzewski the first thing to come to mind is Duke University.

The same goes with Steve Spurrier and the University of Florida it's an automatic assumption. It is safe to say that many people know who Krzyzewski and Spurrier are and what they have accomplished over the course of their collegiate careers as head coaches.

For the Mansfield University, the name Harry Hillson is just as common as the two previous mentioned coaches. For the past 16 years, Hillson has coached the Mountaineer baseball to a high level. Since 1992, Hillson has coached the Mounties to five PSAC championships, three North Atlantic Regional championships and three trips to the NCAA Division II World Series. By the way, Hillson is also the fastest coach to reach 500 wins in Pennsylvania collegiate history.

Before getting into his on the field accomplishments, the question at task is how did this all happen? Out of all the places to coach why did small town Mansfield University draw the lucky straw in landing Coach Hillson.

Before coming to Mansfield, Hillson attended Cortland State University, where he was named to the All-State University of New

York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) team for three straight years. As a member of the Red Dragons, Hillson

record and they were crowned PSAC East Champions. Despite the losing record in his first full sea-

"I think [my coaching] varies from year to year," said Hillson. " Probably the older I get, the better I get at [coaching]...the big thing is giving the players the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.

-Coach Harry Hillson on his coaching

played firstbase and the outfield. He had a career batting average of .400, which includes a .469 average his junior year.

Then in 1983 Hillson was a candidate for the Pan-American games representing the Northeast region. Upon graduation from Cortland where he earned a degree in physical education, Hillson was offered a contract from the New York Yankees and played a year of minor league baseball. In the fall of the same year Hillson arrived at Mansfield University as an assistant coach and served the role for the next four years before being promoted in the 1987.

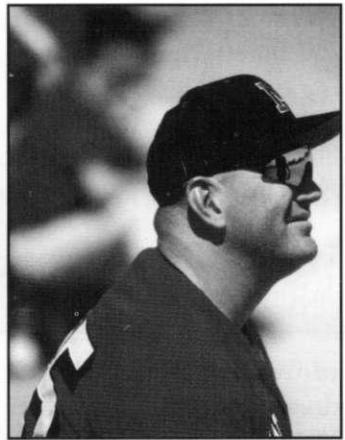
"The big thing is, I like Mansfield," Hillson said. " I like the school at the standpoint where it's a smaller school. It's very personalized, and it's a great place to go to school, to raise your family, those types of things."

During Hillson's first season as head coach, he led the Mountaineers to a 22-24

son Hillson rebounded the following year -- attaining a 37-18 and winning the PSAC Championship and reaching the Northeast Regional Tournament. During the 1992 campaign, Hillson and his Mounties went to the NCAA Division II World Series and made it all the way to the Championship game where they finished as runners up, losing to the University of Tampa 11-8. With the appearance in the Championship game, the Mounties were the first team and only team from the North to play in the title game.

If you ask Hillson though, he will tell you that the games that are not the most memorable moment in his coaching career.

"There has been a lot of good games," Hillson said when asked about the most memorable game of his career. "Not so much the games, but the things that have happened off the field from the road trips, to the off



season those types of things stand out more than the actual games themselves."

As the years went on so did the success of the Mountie baseball program and so did Coach Hillson's win total. Entering the 2002 season, Hillson's baseball teams have averaged 32 wins a year. They have also ranked first in many categories, which is why the program has been so successful. In 1994 the Mounties were first in the country with a team batting average of .371, first in homeruns in 1995 with 97 and the year the Mounties played in the Championship game in 1992, they led all division II teams with a fielding percentage of .969 percent. The Mounties also showed that they could play with their conference winning four straight PSAC championships from 1992-1995. The Mounties would win the PSAC yet again in 1997 under the Hillson's helm, but since then the Mounties have struggled to get back to the championships, despite winning records.

Hillson's coaching style also reflects what his teams have done for him over the years. "I think [my coaching] varies from year to year," said Hillson. "Probably the older I get, the better I get at [coaching]...the big thing is giving the players the opportunity to fulfill their dreams. Everybody came here to Mansfield to play in a good baseball program."

However, entering this season the Mounties team goal was clear as day. Just take a look at their T-shirts. They plan to take a trip down south come May - to a place where only the best of the best get to participate. The place? Montgomery, Alabama for the 2002 college World Series.

"Our team goal is to make it to the World Series in Montgomery, Alabama," said Hillson. "The players know the road to get there...you got to get to the state playoffs number one and make it to that then win a regional. Then you're at the world Series."

The Mounties already took a trip south, but this trip was for spring training. While everyone on the Mansfield campus went home or on vacation, Hillson and the Mountie baseball team went down to Florida to compete. Mansfield finished 10-3 during their stay in Florida

and one of those ten wins one of them was significant to Coach Hillson. With a 12-1 win over Tiekyo Post University Hillson entered the record books being the fastest coach in Pennsylvania baseball history to record win number 500.

she understands the commitment level to the players you need to be successful," Hillson said.

Success is exactly what the Mountaineer baseball program has had under Hillson, who is modest in the way he answers questions about winning 500.

"The biggest thing it's a big boost for our program and gives us a lot of media attention, and it will help make recruiting a lot easier," said Hillson. "Look down the road a little bit trying to make sure the future is taking care of."

"To be honest, it's a milestone that reflects how successful this program has become more than it reflects how good a coach I am."

-Coach Hillson on winning game 500

"To be honest, it's a milestone that reflects how successful this program has been more than it reflects how good a coach I am," said Hillson on winning 500. "Dr. John Heaps started the tradition of outstanding baseball at Mansfield in the 1970s and 1980s and I consider myself the caretaker of the tradition he started...I'm proud to be part of it, and I'm pleased to have been here for 500 wins. But to be honest I'd feel a lot better if we were talking about winning a PSAC or NCAA championship today."

With a career winning percentage of .654, Hillson could surely be ranked up there with the Krzyzewski's and Spurrier's. Even though Hillson has yet to win a college world series title, he has the support needed from his family -- wife Erin Marie and children, Jacqualyne, Taylor, Alison and Kipp -- to be the successful coach he is.

"My wife is pretty supportive. She grew up in a sports family and played college athletics herself, so

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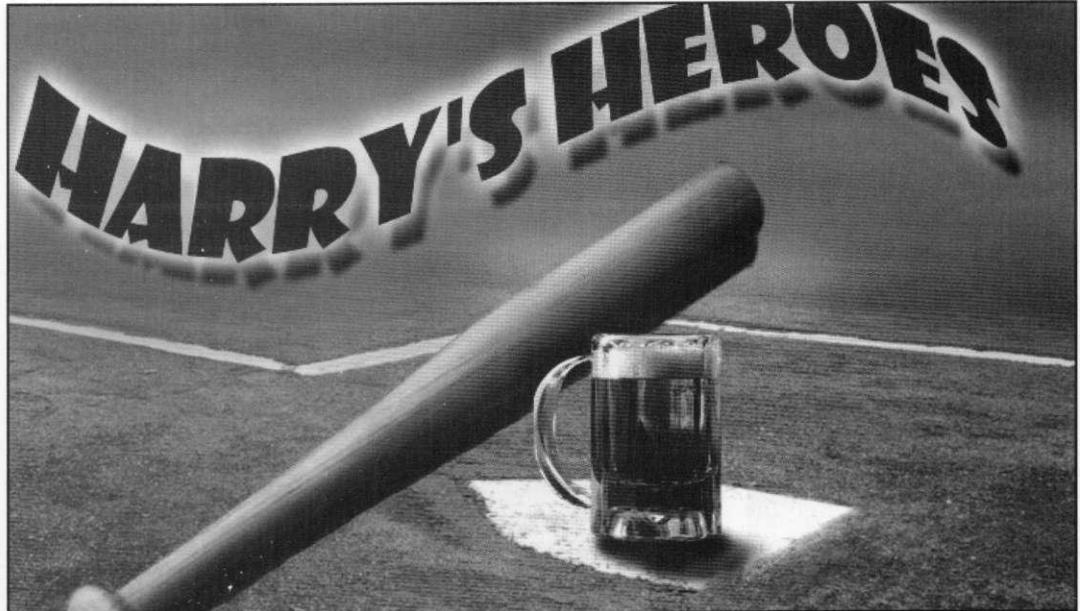
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Meet 'ya out in right



By MICHAEL C KANE

The Mountaineers are halfway done their league games and the town is buzzing.

Besides for the fact that Mansfield is at least two games ahead of the rest of the PSAC and had the best start in the history of the program, there is something else to cheer about, or to cheer with.

Harry's Heroes out in right. That's right, after sitting through football games where "fans" get mad when you cheer it's about time some people have gotten into the school. For a while, I was worried.

Now fans are engulfed in Mountie baseball, they have their own t-shirts, barbecue grill, and couches. And the students wouldn't have it any other way.

One of the biggest questions on campus is, "where did they come from?"

"We were just sitting around and came up with the idea," said Scott Fisher, one of the founding Harry's Heroes.

"We talked to a bunch of people and they said they would come up, it just spread."

According to Steve McCloskey, Mansfield University's sports information director, in the early 90's when Mansfield was ranked #1 in the NCAA Division II poll, fans would flock to the outfield. The "Goon Squad" as they were referred to would heckle opposing players, and ride a canoe down from the field hockey field when someone hit a homerun.

Harry's Heroes have a red Lil' Tikes car, maybe it's time we traded that in for something a little more aerodynamic. But it still works just the same.

Games can sometimes be frustrating, especially due to the speed of baseball. But with Harry's Heroes in right field people have something to do, fans have a way to stay warm, and with the propane grill I've seen out there twice now, they have something to eat.

The popularity of Harry's Heroes is only growing. The first game of the season you couldn't make out if there was a couch or not. Now there's at least two, and a plastic turkey decoy, affectionately known as "Harry's Hen."

When head coach Harry Hillson was honored for becoming the fastest coach to win 500 games in

"We get a lot of different gestures out of them," said Fisher. "Some of them have fun with us, and some of them don't say anything at all."

-Scott Fisher

as long as Mansfield is playing. We're even going to get a bus to go to Boyertown (PSAC Playoffs) and if they go any further, then we'll follow them there too."

The Heroes sit in the cheap seats, like the song by Alabama. They like their beer flat as can be, they like their dogs with mustard and relish and they'll do the wave all by themselves.

non. Right field is one of the hottest spots on campus now and it is only getting better with each game.

Besides for how much fun you can have in the outfield, think about the advantage it gives the Mounties. It only took two outs before they got the middle finger from the Oswego State rightfielder, they must be doing something right.

"We get a lot of different gestures out of them," said Fisher. "Some of them have fun with us, and some of them don't say anything at all."

Tradition has been a problem in Mansfield, Harry's Heroes are paving their way through right field to make sure that their tradition lives on.

"We're there to support our team," said Jess Hockenbrock. "We want the team to know that we're there for them and support them. We'll be there

If you build it they will come

In April 1992, when 27-year-old Tag Rhodes took over the local bar, few residents of this rural New York hamlet could have envisioned it becoming the region's the biggest concert spot, hosting nationally known names-- from country music stars like Charlie Daniels and Willie Nelson, to blues legend BB King, to old and new rock acts like Lynyrd Skynyrd and Hootie & the Blowfish.

By KATHLEEN
ANDREWS

It's Saturday night at Tag's Tavern on the Green in Big Flats, New York. The diverse crowd of perhaps 60 roams around in clusters -- some shooting pool, others enjoying Buffalo wings or simply mingling with friends over drinks.

Catching sight of a familiar face, proprietor Tag Rhodes gives the bartender a subtle nod to indicate this round of drinks is on the house. As they chat, the patron looks with interest at the backdrop of autographed photos of famous musicians behind Rhodes.

The "wall of fame" gives a hint that Tag's is more than just the only bar in this tiny hamlet. The average passer-by would be surprised to know that this unassuming building surrounded by soccer fields and riverbed at the outskirts of town will transform into "The Summer Stage" in a few short weeks.

Throughout the summer, Tag's has hosts national Artists on its 64' by 42' outdoor stage, accommodating thousands of fans since 1994. Fans travel from all over the Twin Tiers for shows featuring a variety of recognized names -- including Bare Naked Ladies, Lone Star, and Weird Al Yankovic.

It's quite a jump from the small business that Rhodes took over ten years ago this spring. Back in 1992, he had three employees, including himself, manning the bar. Now he's up to fifteen regular employees, with a payroll upwards of 75 during the concert season, which includes security, publicity and technical crews.

Sitting with James Taggart "Tag" Rhodes in his business office, it's natural to ask just how he made the transition. Rhodes says a stubbornness that kept him from "knowing any better" is what led to his success. Rhodes didn't exactly expect to get this big when he set out. His initial goal was to bring in "low-level national acts with recognizable names that would sell beer." So he set his sights for typically 'Southern Rock' bands.

Rhodes admits he didn't have a smooth start. No one would even talk to a 'nobody' from Big Flats, New York. "When you have no name, no market and no credibility you get no response. Secretaries take your number. You call again. They blow you off over and over," he says with a shrug. Eventually he began getting through to agents of bands in lesser demand and used his interactions with them to



Lynyrd Skynyrd appeared at Tag's "Summer Stage" in Big Flats New York.

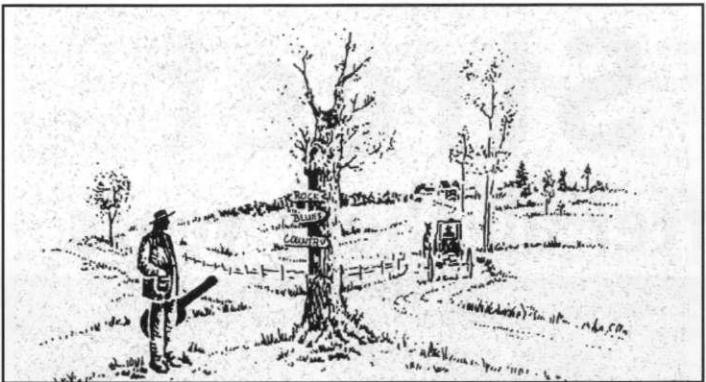
learn the nature of the promoting business. He used to be a bundle of nerves when he tried to get a hold of big agents like William Morris, who represents some of the top names in the business. Now they call him; he's one of only three promoters in the state outside of NYC and can fill in dates between bigger stops.

Make no mistake about it; steady growth and improvement required hard work and hard lessons. "We were overwhelmed with some of the earlier shows -- nothing that the audience could see, but we made mistakes. We didn't have an infrastructure in place. But we didn't let it kill us."

We learned from our mistakes. Don't repeat them. Eighty-six them and move on."

The finished product that fans see at a performance is the result of grueling work of the Tag's staff. There's more to it than selling tickets and paying the band. Tag and his team see to marketing, security, and fulfilling the 'hospitality requirements' of the artist and crew just to mention a few tasks involved in synchronizing a show.

"Hospitality requirements" cover a wide range of requests each unique to the band in question. Tag flips through a recent three-page fax as an example: it includes dining and lodging for a given number of guests; precise quantities of specified brands of beverages for each hotel room, each bus, and backstage; menus from local restaurants that deliver; exact towel counts; the list goes on.



Original work by Waverly, New York artist, Ron Seymour.

What are some of the more notable requests? Rhodes says perhaps, "an armed undercover security guard within 20 feet of the artist around the clock, or airport accommodations for a Lear Jet and police escort." Tag's marketing director, Pat Bauer, agrees and adds, "One [artist] needed an M.D. on call to dispense prescriptions."

With the success of "The Summer Stage," Rhodes has taken his reputation as a promoter along another path -- CrossRhodes, which "brings national headline acts to venues throughout the northeast." This year, CrossRhodes is expanding as far south as Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas -- with more shows featuring blues icon, BB King. Information on upcoming events at the "Summer Sound Stage" and from CrossRhodes is available at their website: www.tagtickets.com.

Rhodes admits that, while he's achieved a lot, he can't please everyone. He has received numerous comments on the choices of entertainment he offers. Some want exposure for local and regional talent; others would like to see more 'modern rock' acts. Unfortunately, logistics get in the way. Tops agents aren't willing to have unknown local bands as opening acts. And the Twin Tiers doesn't have the

population to support many of the newer acts, who reserve dates for larger markets. "When an act plays a maximum 150 to 175 dates a year, they go with highest pay and the largest markets," Rhodes explains. These are "anchor dates" such as State fairs, casinos and large colleges. Since Tag's is the 205th largest concert venue in the country, it often doesn't make it as an anchor date for newer acts.

Exposure is also a key factor. "The newer bands want to sell their CDs and have their names on the radio in big cities, like Washington or New York." Big Flats doesn't offer that kind of exposure. Rhodes points out that the older names, known as "heritage acts," aren't fighting to gain name recognition.

The fenced concert venue and the parking area (accommodating 1700 vehicles) that spread out behind the building are barely visible from Route 352 and the inside still has the rustic feel of a quiet local tavern. But things have definitely changed for Tag Rhodes. The huge concert business hasn't changed who he is though. He gets invitations to party or play a round of golf with the bands but, being busy overseeing the shows, he seldom accepts. "I'm more concerned with the patrons being happy and the readiness of the facility than hanging out with the acts."

The Legend of the Crossroads

By KATHLEEN ANDREWS

The deep symbolism of the black and white "CrossRhodes" logo isn't obvious to those unfamiliar with the Blues folklore that the drawing depicts.

As the folk legend goes, deep in the Mississippi Delta there is an unmarked crossroads where Satan makes shady deals with budding musicians.

Promising musicians who are traveling south -- seeking fame and fortune in New Orleans -- encounter Lucifer at the Crossroads when they lose their way. When these unsuspecting hopefuls ask the Devil for directions, he makes a sinister proposition: unparalleled talent and success in exchange for their souls.

Once they succumb to temptation and sign the evil contract, Satan reveals that they can choose any direction to travel from the Crossroads in order to claim their glory. Then, Lucifer

scurries off with their souls.

When Tag Rhodes told this tale to Waverly, New York artist, Ron Seymour, the scene came to life and emerged as the picture that CrossRhodes Entertainment uses for its design today.

The vivid illustration is remarkable in its lack of distinct line. Instead, shaded shapes join together to create the image of a shadowy figure, instrument in hand, gazing up at an imposing dead tree. Nailed to the tree are crude signs pointing in every direction -- "rock," "blues," "country." These are the unlimited paths the musician can pursue with his ill-gotten talent. In the distance, Ol' Scratch's carriage scuttles off -- now loaded with a newly forfeited soul.

Seymour's artistry is intriguing in and of itself. It also vividly illustrates the price some may be willing to pay for fame and fortune.

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Still going strong after all these years

By DYLAN BRUCIE

Would you believe that the cultural epicenter of the small conservative community of Corning used to be in the Guinness Book of World Records for the most bars per capita?

In 1915, Corning had one bar for every 216 persons. Of course, this is no longer the case. Things have changed over the years. Market Street, a street that represents the heart of the small city of Corning, has been changing since its inception and it continues to do so to this day.

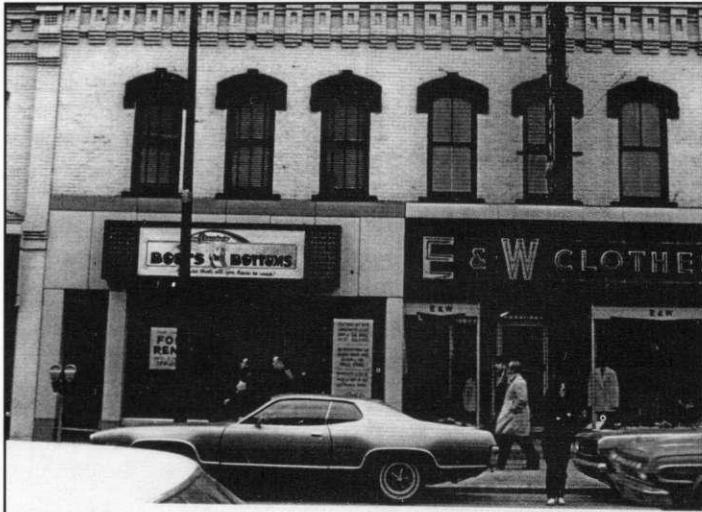
Nineteenth Century Market Street

Market Street had humble beginnings. Like many growing and developing communities throughout the still fairly young country, a main location for people to come for food and goods sprang

up. This place, very fittingly, was named Market Street. Because Corning is located on a river, the town formed in a linear "river town" pattern.

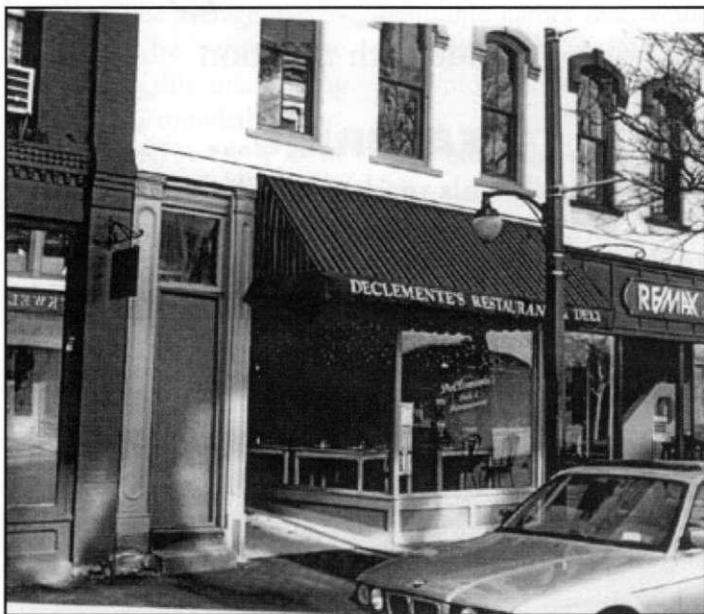
The main mills or later factories were all along the river; behind them were the local businesses and markets; and behind them were the residential housing areas. Market Street was located directly behind the factories on the south side of the river. Corning still has this pattern today, although much has changed since then. Headquarters for large businesses have replaced the factories along the river, but Corning's linear pattern remains.

During the early years, development was rapid. New places were always being built and the city (then only



Market Street of Yesterday

a village officially) was expanding more and more. The streets were still dirt and all the buildings were made of wood. It was during a flourishing and developing period that a tragedy would occur and obliterate what so many had worked to build -- in the summer of 1856, a fire broke out that destroyed many of the wooden buildings that comprised Market Street.



Market Street of Today

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Over thirty businesses were destroyed. However, all was not lost and the city rebuilt stronger than ever before. This time, the buildings were constructed of brick rather than wood. That way, if another fire were to occur, it would not be able to spread nearly as easily. The resulting beautiful brick architecture still stands in Corning today.

The next 100 years would bring industrialization to Corning. As the town grew rapidly, and the introduction of Corning Glass put Corning's name on the map, Market Street thrived more than ever. Stone sidewalks were introduced to the street in 1878 and the street itself was finally paved in 1883 with medina stone -- the first street in Corning to do so. New businesses were coming in with the expanding population and Corning eventually became a real factory town.

When the industrial revolution took the country by storm in the early 1900s, Corning was no exception and soon there were four railroads running through the city and factories lining the river pumping out glass to go around the country. Little did they know that Corning Glass would one day go on to be one of the largest glass producers in the world, providing everything from cookware to missile nose cones and NASA satellite lenses to creating fiber optics. Things were simpler back then though, and Corning was just a regular working class town.

Glasswork was a hot job and men worked so hard, numerous bars and saloons popped up, mainly on

Market Street. This was when Corning became known, not as the "Crystal City" famous glass provider, but the town with the most bars per person! This changed with prohibition laws. Even after the laws were repealed, Corning never saw that kind of explosion in the drinking industry again. It was still a factory town and much of the layout was just the way it had been for years. The next big change would not come to Corning until the early 1970s.

Late Twentieth Century Restorations

In the summer of 1972, vast rains caused by Hurricane Agnes hit Corning and its surrounding areas incredibly hard. The hurricane originally hit Florida a month earlier, made its way up to Georgia, then unexpectedly gained strength and went back out to sea, returning to land in the southern New York area and combine with yet another storm system from Ohio to form one of worst storms the area had ever seen. It wasn't long before the first levees on the river began to break and many people closest to the river were either trapped in the very upper levels of their homes. Volunteers in boats rescued scores of people from their rooftops. Market Street, being very close to the river, was struck hard by the flood. When the water receded, many buildings needed major renovation; many weren't even salvageable.



In the end, Market Street was left with a quarter of its length taken away. The pre-flood Market Street stretched all the way from Bridge Street to Denison Park on the other side of town. Since the flood decimated several blocks of Market Street, the city decided to build new and important structures in those locations. Among these structures were the new City Hall, the Corning Library, and the Civic Center, provides recreation for the entire city.

The flood wasn't the only thing hurting Market Street at the time. The emergence of malls and big shopping centers began to take their toll on small community business places such as Market Street. As a result, Market Street has become less focused on the general public and more focused on special needs and tourism. To remain intent on being competitive with the malls of the surrounding areas would mean failure. With its specialty and hobby shops, Market Street offers people things

they can't find in other places.

Some upper floors of the buildings still need renovation to be used. Work is underway to make this happen with an effort by people like Patrick Flynn, current President of the Market Street Restoration Society. He feels that in 50 years, Market Street will still have its classic beauty and hopefully will be utilized to its fullest potential.

Market Street, like the city it resides in, has been resilient through the years. It has been burned to the ground and completely flooded, but each time it has come back stronger than before. No doubt, it will someday go through other troubling times, but it will always come back stronger. That's why it's great.

(Special thanks to Patrick Flynn and Tom Dimitroff. These extremely nice and generous gentlemen were very helpful and eager to help. Thank you so much.)

It's Greek to me

A fun poke at campus Greek life

By MATT BIEGUN

Just for the record, I am not, nor have I ever been in a Greek Club. No Sororities or Fraternities for me. I know quite a bit about what goes on. However, this is merely an opinion: my opinion.

My fianc^e, Brianne, is 100 percent "Greek." As President of the Alpha (first) Chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma at Longwood College, she has committed herself to many fees, long hours in meetings, and wearing those "letters."

The "letters" I am referring to are the letters of the Greek alphabet that grace every article of clothing. Shirts and sweatshirts are the main bearers of these "letters." On the topic of these "letters" if I had the chance to start up my own business, I would open a Greek store near a college campus. Every Sorority and Fraternity would buy all of his or her merchandise through me. Think of the profits to be made.

I buy a case of 50 t-shirts for \$2 a piece. Next, I add on the respective "letters" for \$3 a piece. Then, I sell those shirts for \$15 a piece, and collect my \$500 profit.

Every piece of merchandise is done the same way. If you could go down to the local Wal*Mart and pick up the various items with your "letters" on them, then the profit making of the specialty store would be vastly decreased. This will never happen because there are just

too many combinations of "letters" to be cost effective for a nation-wide store. You name it and there is that item with letters of the Greek alphabet on it. My personal favorites are the bottle openers and baby bibs. Let's not forget about all the really cool sayings and pictures that show up on the annual "Rush" shirts.

From what I understand, "Rush" is the time of year when Fraternities and Sororities are looking for sheep to join their flock. Every new recruit is a new source of income for the group. It's also a great way to segregate the campus. "Male jocks, snobbish girls, and general outcasts, please report to your own kind."

Now, back to the issue of the shirts, again. The best saying that I've seen on a Fraternity's shirt was, "The Best Friends Money Can Buy!" That couldn't be more true! Why be a nice and sociable person when you can go out and "buy" some friends. Other clubs want you to believe that you can be a rebel by joining the sorority "that your mother warned you about."

Other shirts stress the importance of being part of the "in crowd" as a result of joining their club.

Quite often, I've seen, the majority of the "Rush" shirts are using logos and/or pictures that they don't have the right to use. The most popular design in use today is the

"Fire Dancer" drawn by Dave Matthews. Although it is flattering that a nation of college students admires his work, I'm not sure permission for use has not been granted. It's a petty concern of mine, but just stop and think about it for a second.

At this point I'd like to back track a bit. I'd like to further discuss the stereotypes that Fraternities and Sororities live up to. By being such a selective process, only certain college students are taken in by each club. And rightfully so, each club has that right, but do they realize that they help influence the mindset of the fellow students.

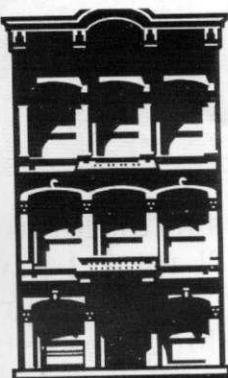
I'm going to pick on the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority at both Mansfield University and Longwood College. Let it be known that I know very few, if any of the sisters, but this is what I see and hear. The ASA's are stereotyped as dumb and easy. The ASA stands for "Any Sister Anytime." I'm sure that this is not the case for most of the sisters, but all it takes is a couple bad reputations, and the rumor is out there. The ASA's, as a whole, happen to be the most attractive girls on campus. Jealousy is one factor in the outside stereotyping from other sororities, but they don't help their cause by dressing in super tight clothes. And the make-up!

Don't get me started on the make-up. Two words: putty knife.

There are plenty of other nicknames going around the campus. There are the Delta Kappa's, or the Delta Crappa's. You've got your E-Z DZ's. Sigma Sigma Sigma, or "Try Sigma, everyone else has." But more importantly, the two main stereotypes about Fraternities and Sororities are that Sororities girls are out for booze and sex, and Fraternity guys are out looking for sorority girls who are out for booze and sex.

One solution to the matter is to boycott all chapters of all social fraternities and sororities. What useful purpose do they serve? I can only guess on the number of students who have failed out of college because of excessive partying with their club. How much money could have been saved by just going to class and being an individual?

I hope everyone got at least one laugh out of this article. I don't mean harm by it. I just thought that I'd give everyone a quick glimpse of what some non-Greeks perceive. I'm not an expert, and have never claimed to be. If I have offended anyone, then good, because that's a perfect sign that you take your club too seriously. College should be the best four, or in some cases five or six, years of our lives. Fraternities and Sororities are fun while they last, so I've been told, but move on.



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